



United States Army Program Executive Office Air and Missile Defense



Huntsville, Alabama

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Theater Air and Missile Defense Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS)

Introduction

The Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) traces its U.S. origins to the Corps Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) project of the late 1980s and early 1990s. MEADS, a joint Army and Marine Corps program, was intended to replace the rapidly aging HAWK air defense system. The Army and Marine Corps started what is now known as MEADS in recognition of their common need to find a new air defense system that would provide rapidly deployable, low-to-medium altitude air and cruise missile defenses – anywhere in the world.

In the early 1990s, Germany and, soon afterward, Italy expressed an interest in joining the MEADS program and co-operating on system development and production. The three partners agreed to work toward creating this new international venture. One of the first concrete steps in this cooperation came with the signing of a joint Statement of Intent in 1995. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 1996 to commence the Project Definition/Validation Phase. In June 1996, the Management Organization charter was established under NATO.

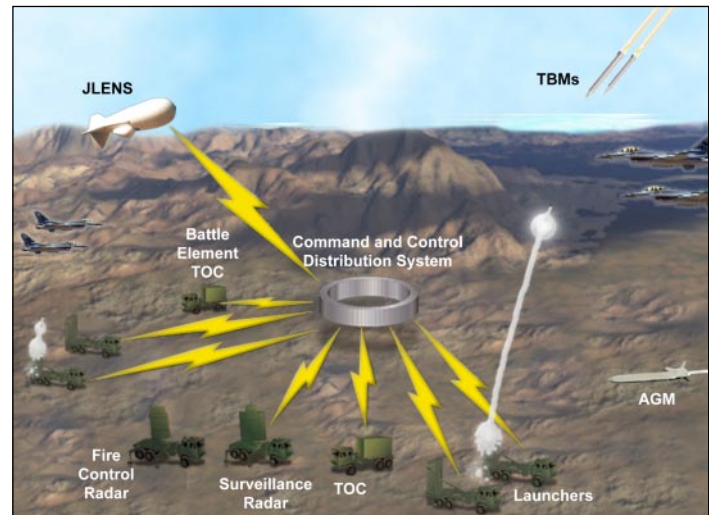
MEADS is embarking on a three-year Risk Reduction Phase. The goal is to reduce technical risks in preparation for the subsequent design and development phase.

Mission

MEADS will defend the maneuver forces and fixed assets from short-range ballistic missiles, large-caliber rockets, cruise missiles, and other air-breathing threats such as aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles. The role of MEADS in the ballistic missile defense architecture will be to bridge the gap between man-portable systems like the STINGER and the higher levels of the missile defense structure like the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system while providing continuous coverage for rapidly advancing maneuver forces. MEADS will be rapidly deployable, have greater firepower, and require less manpower than its predecessors. MEADS is expected to replace PATRIOT starting in the 2012 timeframe.

System Description

MEADS will be a mobile SAM system designed to provide a lower tier defense for troops and high-value assets against a sophisticated array of threats. It will be a key element of the



MEADS System Concept

theater missile defense in the Army Air and Missile Defense Architecture. The system will consist of surveillance and fire control launchers, missiles, and Tactical Operations Centers (TOCs). It will possess a stand-alone and tailorable operational capability. As part of the Army Air and Missile Defense Architecture, the system will be compatible and interoperable with other Army air defense systems and will interface with joint and allied sensors and Battle Management/Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (BM/C⁴I) networks.

The MEADS BM/C⁴I architecture is fully netted and distributed among TOCs, sensors, and launchers. This communications network allows any battle element to exchange information with any other unit on an as-needed basis.

For more information, please contact:

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MEADS

C-130/C-141 Deployable

Highly Maneuverable

*Fully Netted & Distributed
BM/C⁴I Network*

*Provides ATBM Coverage
at Point-of-Attack*



*Cooperative Development Program
with International Partners*

***MEADS Will Protect 21st Century
Maneuver Forces***